

EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET LITHOGRAPHY

1. Title:	Extendibility Using EUV Actinic Inspection Tool for sub-32-nm node	
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5. EUVL topic (check only one by "X")	 ☐ Exposure Tools (ET) ☐ Sources (SO) ☐ Resists (RE) ☐ Masks (MA) ☑ Defect Inspection (DI) ☐ Reticle Contamination (Optics & ML Coatings (ML) Optics Contamination (OC) Device Integration (DE) Technology Readiness (TR) Cost of Ownership (CO)
6. Presentation preference:	⊠ oral	poster

7. Abstract body:

SEMATECH operates the Actinic Inspection Tool (AIT) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), a dual mode EUV microscope dedicated to mask research. The AIT uses scanning mode for inspection of defects on multilayer blanks, and zoneplate microscope imaging mode to record EUV aerial images through focus of regions of interest. The AIT's multiple zoneplates are designed to emulate the spatial resolution of 0.25–0.35 NA 4x EUV lithography tools.

SEMATECH also operates a Lasertec M7360 with sensitivity to multilayer defects down to ~40—45 nm, which is not sufficient for mask blank development below the 32-nm node. EUV mask blanks with real phase defects are inspected using the M7360 and the AIT in scanning mode to compare defect sensitivities. After scanning mode, each defect is reviewed using imaging mode with different NA values.

Actinic imaging provides quantitative aerial image feedback in ways that photoresist printing and non-EUV inspection methods cannot. From the resist image, most of contrast is lost in resist blurring and flare. So, it is very difficult to define a 20-nm half-pitch pattern in the current Micro Exposure Tool (MET), despite the short EUV wavelength. However the aerial image from AIT can resolve features below 100 nm CD on the mask. Thus the AIT makes it possible to study EUV masks for sub-32-nm half pitch nodes.